



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 MAR 2005

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 34682-PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/010112	International filing date (day/month/year) 11 September 2003 (11.09.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 12 September 2002 (12.09.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B65G 47/71		
Applicant HEUFT SYSTEMTECHNIK GMBH		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 5 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 23 March 2004 (23.03.2004)	Date of completion of this report 27 May 2004 (27.05.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

PCT/EP2003/010112

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____ 5-13 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ 1-4 _____, filed with the letter of 23 March 2004 (23.03.2004)

- the claims:

pages _____ _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19)
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ 1-5 _____, filed with the letter of 23 March 2004 (23.03.2004)

- the drawings:

pages _____ 1/4 - 4/4 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-A-4 173 276 (JOHNSON LLOYD) 6 November 1979
(1979-11-06)

D2: DE-A-3 716 127 (DIAMOND INT. CORP.) 18 January
1973 (1973-01-18)

Document D2 was not cited in the international search report. A copy of the document is appended.

1. Documents D1 and D2, which are considered the closest prior art, disclose a device for dividing a random flow of objects into a plurality lanes, from which the subject matter of claim 1 differs in that the dividing devices move back and forth in the transport direction and transversally thereto so as to improve the flow of the objects.

Since the combination of features of claim 1 is not known from the prior art and it offers, furthermore, the advantage of an optimised flow of objects, claim 1 meets the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).

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2. Claims 2-5 are dependent on claim 1 and therefore likewise meet the PCT novelty and inventive step requirements (PCT Article 33(2) and (3)).
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Since an object can only move in one direction at a given time, the meaning of the expression "simultaneously" in claim 1 is unclear.